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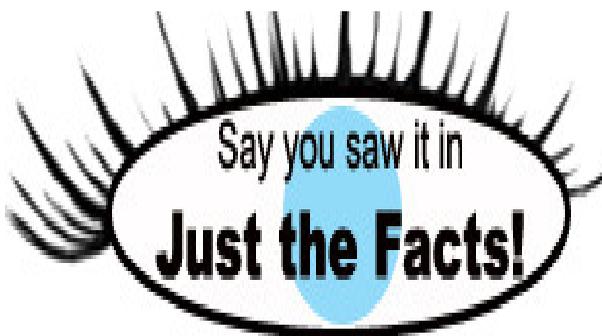
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**Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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**Cultra expects little improvement in near term economy**

ROSSVILLE—Illinois residents will probably have to wait until after the next gubernatorial election to see marked improvement in the state economy, said state Sen. Shane Cultra.

Cultra was in Rossville Monday, one stop on a listening tour he is taking throughout the district. He answered questions from about a dozen people who attended the event, including the topics of:

**Public pensions**, for which Illinois just made a \$6.3 billion payment. "That's where that 67% tax increase went," he said.

Of the total, about \$2.4 billions paid teacher pensions.

Rossville-Alvin school officials attending the meeting said the district pays not only teacher salaries but also 100 percent of retirement contributions. "Rossville is not alone in that," said board member Bob Ray.

Next year, the state is expected to owe \$6.8 billion to public pensions, followed in 2013 by \$7.1 billion. "We are paying more than what the public can afford," he said, warning the audience not to expect change soon. Democrats are heavily backed by public unions which "don't want to say there's a problem."

**Medicaid**, which does not have enough restrictions, especially for those just coming to the state. Cultra said state officials asked for improved income verification for Medicaid recipients but were told to stop by federal officials.

**Unemployment compensation**. "Illinois has good benefits," Cultra said. With an unemployment rate of 10 percent, Illinois used up its resources and borrowed additional money from the federal government to meet its UC obligation.

State officials plan to hold a bond sale to pay off the debt.

**Concealed carry** which "I don't thing has a chance," Cultra said. The issue would need a super majority to

override a Quinn veto. Illinois is the only state that does not have a provision for concealed carry.

**School transportation costs**, which districts are mandated to pay and are reimbursed a percentage by the state. Gov. Quinn wants districts to consolidate, Cultra said, "but won't even pay to get your kids to school."

**Business**, which faces high taxes and stiff regulations. Cultra talked about a question Monday afternoon in the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group, which is asking for \$100 million in breaks from the tax hikes championed by Gov. Pat Quinn and passed by legislators. CME Group is taxed not only on Illinois sales, but also those in other states and overseas. "That's not right," Cultra said, adding without the breaks, the exchange may leave the state.

Sears is also threatening to leave Illinois if it doesn't receive tax breaks, too.

Cultra said that in the past, he has voted for tax breaks for big business to keep jobs in Illinois "but it's gotten to the point where the policies in place hurt all business," he said. "They're all getting hurt because Illinois is not



State Sen. Shane Cultra answers a question Monday afternoon in Rossville.

See CULTRA on other side

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 Open Bowling all evening - \$2**

**Thursday: Swiss Steak**

**Friday: Cod & Ribeye Steaks  
 Open Bowling all evening**

**Saturday: Prime Rib and Ribeyes  
 served 4:30-close**

**Open Bowling 12-close  
 Sunday: Open Bowling 11-4**

Next week it's Country Music Award winner  
**TONY BOOTH along with SMOKE RIVER  
 Saturday at 8:30. Tickets only \$15.**

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*Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce*

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<p><b>BJ's Pump Bar &amp; Grill</b> <b>Fast Lanes</b> <b>Haga's Party Options</b> <b>Hollywood Video &amp; Tan</b> <b>T&amp;L Lawn Care</b> <b>Jerry Ulrich Motors</b> <b>Hoopeston Monicals</b> <b>La Casa Del Sol</b> <b>Hoopeston Chronicle</b> <b>Unger's Jewelry</b> <b>Computer Works</b> <b>NAPA Auto Parts</b> <b>China Wok</b></p>	<p><b>Hoopeston Star Chrysler</b> <b>Foster's Produce</b> <b>Henning's Root Beer Stand</b> <b>Olympic Hardware</b> <b>Hoopeston Express Lube</b> <b>Sheridan's TV &amp; Appliances</b> <b>Neal Tire &amp; Auto Service</b> <b>Tuttle's Tattoos</b> <b>Crown Ford</b> <b>Hoopeston Subway</b> <b>McDonald's</b> <b>Rod's Home &amp; Auto/Radio Shack</b> <b>Pizza King</b></p>	<p><b>Hoopeston IGA</b> <b>Stebbins Furniture</b> <b>Sewing Boutique</b> <b>Global Fashions</b> <b>Flowers &amp; Gifts by Molly Culbert</b> <b>Cellular One</b> <b>Lithgow Automotive</b> <b>Mr. B's Cafe</b> <b>CVS</b> <b>Pamida</b> <b>Cafe Delights</b> <b>Main Street Fitness</b> <b>Anthem Chevrolet Pontiac Buick</b></p>
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*Must be 18 or older to play. 1 Holiday Fun Card per household.*

 **Court Dispositions** 

**November 10**  
**Octavius Stangle**, Danville, new status hearing January 5, 2012.  
**Christy Barnes**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.  
**Joshua Edwards**, Plainfield, Ind., new status hearing December 8.  
**Marcos Ramirez**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.

**Chase Miles**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.  
**William Fulton**, Westville, new status hearing December 8.  
**Angel Bane**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.  
**Danny Jansen Jr.**, Kankakee, new status hearing December 8.  
**Joshua Hasbargen**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.  
**Kenneth Dale**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.  
**Tyler Martin**, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 8.

**Police News** 

Latasha Brock, 27, of Milford, was arrested after police were called at 10:38 p.m. Monday to Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn for an allegedly intoxicated woman at the store. Brock was charged with disobeying a police officer and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston city court.

**Obituaries**

**MASTIN** - Lois E. Mastin, 75, of Hoopeston, died at 11:10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

**Cultra** continued from other side

competitive.”  
 Other factors hurting business include Workman's Compensation and Illinois' minimum wage, which is higher than that of neighboring states.  
 Cultra puts much of the blame for Illinois' problems on Democratic leadership, including Quinn. “Rod Blagojevich was a crook,” he said. “This guy's a nice guy but he's not competent to run the government.”  
 “It's going to be tough for the next couple years. I wish I could tell you there's some light ahead but there's not.”

**Weather** 

Mostly sunny today. High 40. Tonight, clear. Low 25. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 42, low 28.  
 For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

**Classifieds**

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City of Hoopeston is taking applications for 911 Dispatcher. Applicants must be at least 21, type at least 35 wpm in a computer environment, have a work experience with Windows-based programs and PC operations, be able to multi-task under stressful situations and have a clear speaking voice. Required to work days, evenings, and overnight shifts, including weekends and holidays. Schedule subject to change with little notice. Applicants must live within 5 miles of Hoopeston or relocate to within 5 miles within one year of hire date. Salary commensurate with previous work experience as a police, EMS or fire dispatcher. Excellent benefits package. Applications may be picked up at the Hoopeston Police Department, 301 W. Main, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or found on-line at [www.hoopestonpolice.org/employment](http://www.hoopestonpolice.org/employment). All applications must be submitted to the Hoopeston Police Department no later than December 23, 2011.

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 Rossville: 2 BR plus office, hardwood floors, updated. \$525/mo., \$525 deposit. Call (217) 516-8309

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